Production of blended jute yarn

336. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the blended jute yarn produced in India has tremendous market potential in several countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production of blended jute yarn; and

(c) the schemes drawn up in this regard for the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has encouraged various jute mills and entrepreneurs to undertake the manufacturing of blended jute yarn. Under UNDP assisted Jute Programme certain mills in the organised sector have been assisted in setting up of plants for manufacturing of jute blended yarn. Jute entrepreneurs have also been assisted in setting up of mini jute spinning units for manufacturing jute fine yarn.

Export of jute goods to Japan

337. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan is keen to import jute goods from India;

(b) if so, the details of the orders placed or proposed by Japan for import of Jute goods;

(c) the steps taken by Government thereafter; and

(d) which are the other countries importing jute goods from India?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Japan is a regular importer of jute goods from India. Export of jute goods from India to Japan during 1992-93 and 1993-94 was as follows:—

	Qty. '000MT	Value (Rs./cr)
1992-93 . . .	8.9	19.32
1993-94 . . .	7.9	18.57

In order to increase the export of jute and jute goods to various countries, Govt. have taken a number of measures including, inter-alia. participating in international fairs, organising buyer-seller meets, liaising with importers and end users, funding R&D activities to develop a new range of diversified jute products to suit consumer preferences, External Market Assistance Scheme.

(d) Major importers of jute goods from India are U.K , U.S.A. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany. Belgiam, Spain Morocco and the Gulf Region.

Ris in cotton prices

338. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the rise in the prices of cotton in the domestic market in the country;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the impact of the rise of cotton prices on the textile sector; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to tackle the situation and to regulate the prices of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The reasons for the rise in the prices of cotton are short arrivals in the market, demage to cotton crop in

certain areas, speculative buying and tight availability in international market.

(b) to (c) Government is constantly monitoring the situation. The import of cotton has been put under OGL at 'nil' rate of duty about 30,000 MT of Viscose Staple Fibre at 'nil' rate of duty has been permitted to be imported, to supplement the requirement of raw material; the ceiling on stock of cotton to be held by mills and traders has been imposed to regulate the availability and prices of cotton. So far only one lakh bales of Bengaldeshi cotton has been permitted for export out of announced quantity of 5 lakh bales keeping in view the present situation.

Export of handicrafts and handloom products

339. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1073 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th December, 1994 and state:

(a) the achievement made in the export of handloom and handicrafts so far; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the export of handicrafts and handloom products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The target fixed for the export of handicrafts and handloom products during 1994-95 in value terms and the achievements made so far are as under:—

	Handicrafts including handknotted carpets	Handloom/fabrics/ made ups etc.
Target	Rs. 3870.00 crores	Rs. 1470.00 crores
Achievement (upto Jan., 95)	Rs. 3540.70 crores	Rs. 1316.31 crores

(b) The steps taken to increase the export of handicraft and handlooms products are as under:—

(i) organising of buyer-seller meets;

(ii) sponsoring of sales-cum-study team abroad;

(iii) participation in international fairs and exhibitions;

(iv) overseas publicity and publication of catalogues;

(v) organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair, Carpet Expo and Handloom Expo in the country;

(vi) conducting of workshop-seminars at important production centres;

उत्तर प्रदेश में विद्युतकरघों के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए वित्तीय सहायता

340. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :**
चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार को उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की ओर से उ० प्र० राज्य को विद्युतकरघों के आधुनिकीकरण हेतु वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान किए जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और